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TO COERCE CASTRO.

If Necessary, Further Harsh Measures Will Be Used.

BRITISH ATTITUDE DEFINED.

It is Not Intended to Land Troops or Occupy Venezuelan Territory.

DECIDE TO BLOCKADE ALL PORTS.

Opinion Prevails at Berlin That It Is Too Late to Entertain Proposals For Arbitration—Gunboats Sent to the Bottom, Not Towed Away—Italians to Take a Hand—Late Developments.

London, Dec. 16.—Replying to a question in the house of commons, Under Foreign Secretary Cranborne said no attempt had been made by Great Britain to refer the dispute with Venezuela to arbitration.

Replying to a question in the house of lords, Lord Lansdowne, the foreign secretary, said that if the seizure of the Venezuelan gunboats did not pro-



PREMIER BALFOUR.

duce the desired effect further coercive measures would be employed. The matter had been considered in consultation with Germany and it had been decided to resort to a blockade of the ports. It was not intended to land a British force and still less to occupy Venezuelan territory.

At the foreign office it was said no decision had been arrived at in regard to Venezuelan arbitration, that many difficulties have arisen in the way of arriving at a basis of what can be arbitrated and what can be otherwise settled. The outlook for a pacific settlement of the dispute is not particularly bright.

TOO LATE TO ARBITRATE.

The Prevailing Idea in Germany, Government's Attitude.

Berlin, Dec. 16.—The German government has not yet replied to President Castro's offer of arbitration, being still in correspondence with the British government on the subject. It is intimated that Germany's reply is not likely to be ready for some days. The opinion in the cabinet appears to be that President Castro's proposals are merely a move in a game designed to see what Germany and Great Britain are now willing to do and as a test also of American public feeling. The prevailing idea here at present is that it is too late to arbitrate and that the acceptance of the offer to do so would place Germany in the position of having put her hand to the plow and as looking backward. The government's concern at the present moment is to guide the application of force so as to avoid what could be taken internationally as a declaration of war, resulting in the recognition of Venezuela as a belligerent.

The conduct of the United States is regarded in diplomatic opinion here as being strong and dignified and the state department's handling of the affair is looked upon as establishing Europe's recognition of the Monroe doctrine, because every step of Germany and Great Britain was made after taking into account what the United States thought of it. At the same time it is claimed that events in Venezuela are saving the United States many future complications by letting the Latin republics understand that the United States will not

protect them from the effects of a financial delinquency and internal disorder.

SENT TO THE BOTTOM

Were All the Venezuelan Vessels. Not Towed Away.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 16.—Further details of the sinking of the Venezuelan ships have been obtained from an entry made in the book of the signal men of the fortress of La Guayra. It is as follows: "The adjutant called me to see if I knew that the steamer Retribution of the British navy was towing the steamers Crespo and Totuno of the National navy, three or four miles north. I had heard four cannon shots and said the two steamers had disappeared and understood they had been sunk by the Vineta and Retribution. At the end of an hour, the Retribution returned to the harbor at once." The fact that Retribution returned to La Guayra alone two hours after leaving with the captured vessels was confirmed by English residents of La Guayra. Consequently she did not have time to conduct the Venezuelan ships to Curacao or Trinidad.

It is now said that the object of the German cruiser Panther in sailing for Maracaibo is to capture the Venezuelan steamer Ministeres, formerly the Spanish torpedo boat Dingo, Vallesques and the remaining vessels of the Venezuelan fleet.

BAD SCORE

Caused at La Guayra By the Arrival There of British Warships.

La Guayra, Dec. 16.—The arrival of the British cruiser Charybdis and the torpedo boat destroyer Quail caused a bad scare among the population of this place. The commander of the fortress visited the American, French, Spanish and Dutch consuls and asked them in case the British landed marines to intervene to prevent firing on the fort and to delay any movement on the fort, as he had received orders from the government to evacuate the place. The commander added that if the consuls refused to intervene and the fort was attacked he would defend his post and could not answer for the consequences to the town. Later, however, the Charybdis and the Quail left La Guayra and the fears of the population subsided.

What caused most of the alarm was the fact that when the British ships arrived here they took up a commanding position, their guns covering the fort, and remained stationary for a few moments as if about to open fire. The Charybdis and the Quail steamed away in the direction of Curacao.

The foreign consuls subsequently called on the prefect, who assured them there was no danger at present. He added that the commander of the fort had been needlessly alarmed and had only succeeded in almost causing a panic.

HAY PRODS EUROPE.

Again Calls For Expression of Opinion. Italy Joins the Allies.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The Italian ambassador called at the state department and advised Secretary Hay that Italy had joined the allies in the operations against Venezuela. He requested that Mr. Bowen assume



JOHN HAY.

charge of the Italian interests in Venezuela and the secretary granted the request, subject to the approval of Venezuela. Italy enters the combination on the same plane as to abstention from territorial seizures as Germany and Great Britain.

Falling to hear from Europe as to Mr. Bowen's proposal to arbitrate the Venezuela troubles, Secretary Hay addressed cablegrams to the United States ambassadors at London, Berlin and Rome instructing them to call the matter again to the attention of the governments to which they are accredited, with a view to securing an early expression of opinion from them.

STORIES OF CHILDREN

Deeply Impress the Members of the Coal Strike Commission.

PROMPT JUDGE GRAY TO COMMENT.

Would Have Youngsters Prohibited From Telling at Night—Miners Spring Another Surprise. Proceedings of the Day.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 16.—When the coal strike commission met, Chairman Gray opened the proceedings by saying that the commissioners were impressed with the spectacle of the little girls, daughters of coal miners, who were before the commission and testified that they worked all night in the silk mills. He said the people of the community and citizens of the commonwealth should not let the incident pass without taking some steps to have the legislature of Pennsylvania seriously consider the enactment of a law that will forbid the employment of children at night. At the suggestion of the commission the statement of the wages of the fathers of two of the girls were presented. One earned more than \$1,000 last year and the other \$900.

The miners sprung another surprise by presenting an individual operator on the witness stand against the operators. He was John C. Haddock of Wilkesbarre, president of the Plymouth Coal company. Mr. Haddock, in answer to questions put to him by C. S. Darrow for the miners, said he had been in the coal business 35 years. His company operates the Black Diamond and Dodson mines near Wilkesbarre. He said his company went into the hands of receivers on March 14, and on Nov. 14 trustees took hold of the property. Mr. Haddock then explained that the miner's ton, which runs from 2,700 to 3,200 pounds, was fixed years ago so that the employer could get out of the ton 2,240 pounds of pure coal above the size of pea. Pea coal and all sizes below that was waste. This waste is now being utilized. Regarding the prices of coal, Mr. Haddock said the middlemen in New York are paying \$11 and \$12 a ton.

Judge Gray: "Do they pay the operators that price?" "Possibly," was the reply.

Children Testify.

Girls of tender age testified that in order to help support their parents, they had to work all night in silk factories. The commissioners, who had listened with moist eyes to the stories of tiny breaker boys, heard with indignation the stories of tiny daughters of miners, who worked from 6 p. m. to 6 a. m. at the loom for wages ranging from three cents to five and a half cents per hour.

Annie Jacks, 13, said she worked at night from 5:20 o'clock until 6:20 in the morning. She had to stand up all night during her working hours and received 65 cents a night.

One girl, 11, said she had to go to work because her father had been hurt in the mines. She said she worked from 7 a. m. until 6 p. m. for \$2 a week. Slavonian girl, aged 12, also worked all night. Gave her testimony through a 13-year-old girl interpreter. She worked 12 hours each night and received three cents an hour.

A breaker boy, aged 15 years, said he has a 10-year-old brother working in the breaker of the Red Ash company at Mount Carmel. The father of the boys was killed in the mines and the 14-year-old brother wrote the note to the company, which was signed by the mother, stating that the younger brother was of legal age.

First Break in Monroe Doctrine. New York, Dec. 16.—Italian participation in the Anglo-German action against Venezuela produces an effect here not anti-American, but one of self-satisfaction and pride at taking a part in what is considered the first break in the Monroe doctrine. Parliament and the public press, without distinction of party, which is very strange in Italy, approve the action of the minister of foreign affairs, M. Prinetti. In the chamber of deputies Deputy Santini declared that the energetic attitude of Germany and Great Britain had "sent the Monroe doctrine sky high, as the United States understood they were not dealing with poor Spain."

Born in Ohio.

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 16.—Colonel J. L. Abernathy, a pioneer Kansan and a wealthy wholesale furniture manufacturer, died at his home here. He was born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1843, and came west in 1856. He was the father of H. T. Walter and W. M. Abernathy of Kansas City, members of the Abernathy Furniture company of that city.

FROM OKLAHOMA.

Interesting Letter From Mr. S. M. Worthington Who is Visiting at Norman.

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, Dec. 14th.—We are at present about twenty miles south of Oklahoma City, the capital of the territory with a population of about 18,000, with quite a number of large business houses and comfortable residences. We find this place, Norman, to be quite a thriving business point of about 4,000, all alive and striving for front seats. The streets are wide and breezy and spread over quite a lot of ground. Most of the business is done on Main street, which is closely built with many large brick business houses that appear to be doing a fine business. The city presents a lively scene each day, with Main street filled with homes, mules, wagons, buggies, etc., and sidewalks and stores filled with people—men, women, children and often Indians who can be seen in town most any day from the Indian Territory which is only eight or ten miles away. They trade with the whites a good deal. This city is well supplied with schools, churches and whisky houses, some twelve of the former and fourteen of the latter. The Oklahoma University is located here. It has some 500 students. They are now putting an addition to it that is to cost \$90,000. The building is built and maintained by a fund raised by the sale of lands reserved by the Territory for educational purposes, building houses, employing teachers, etc. There is also an asylum in this city with about 600 inmates. This seems to indicate that the older States are sending their lunatics to the wild West to get rid of them. As yet there are no factories in Norman, save a flour mill, cotton gins and cotton seed factory. By the way, the soil is well adapted to the growth of wheat and cotton, making from twenty to thirty bushels of wheat and half bale of cotton to the acre. Hogs are high and scarce and cottolene used mostly in place of lard.

The negro is thought less of here than the Indian. A negro is not allowed to live or stay in this town. They are hounded and driven out, mostly by the ultra abolitionists and hoodlums of the town. Their friends here are found mostly from the slave States. Were they not protected by the Government they would hardly be permitted to stay in the State, save for political purposes.

Am told that some young men of the lower class who are too lazy to work go to the Indian Territory and marry young Indian girls to get the land given by the Government. Some of them are quite rich in the estimation of the penniless whites. They are allotted from 160 to 320 acres each, according to location and quality of land. By law they are not permitted to sell their entire holdings, but are required to keep eighty acres to insure them a home. Otherwise many of them would in a few years become homeless, as they are very shiftless as a class, though we sometimes meet half-breeds that are enterprising and prosperous.

Think the seasons for crop making more favorable than in Southern Kansas. Those who have been here since '80 say there has been but one failure in crops since the territory was opened for settlement. The people, as a rule, are so sociable and friendly, and more inclined to work than those we met in Kansas a few years ago. The crop failure referred to above was due to a dry season and visit by the chinch bug, which of late years has gone as far east as northern and middle Kentucky. I think this a healthy country, and if settled by young industrious people, will some day compare favorably with the best lands of Kentucky. The climate is warmer and I think better than in Kentucky. Mercury seldom gets below the freezing point in winter or above 90° in summer which I am told is less oppressive than farther east. Owing to the purity of the atmosphere, some claim fresh meats can be hung out for days in the open air without putrefaction. Of this fact I know not, but take it that the people in the new country have not as yet learned to lie unless it be that some of them still remember old habits formed in older States.

There are no rocks here with which to make good solid roads as in Kentucky. When a boy I lived on a mud road and my father, who I think was more obliging than any of his sons, kept his oxen yoked a week at a time during the muddy season, to help the unfortunate teamster (who not a neighbor but often a stranger) pull out of a mud hole and over the hill that he might go on his way rejoicing. I think the teamster here liable to stick on most any road without a friend or neighbor to pull him out. In Oklahoma City they are making asphalt streets which remind us of our streets at home.

Think any industrious young man who expects to raise a family and have a good home of his own can do better here than in Kentucky. But if a man is fifty or over and has a home in Kentucky, I think it best that he should stay there.

Think my wife will improve in health here, at least the people here think so.

It is raining a little and sleeting. Mercury standing at 31° this 5 o'clock Saturday evening, Dec. 13th. Yours respectfully,

S. M. WORTHINGTON.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Eleventh District Convention of Ohio To Be Held at Ripley, January 8th.

The Eleventh District convention of the Knights of Pythias of Ohio will be held at Ripley on Thursday, Jan. 8th, 1903.

The Grand Chancellor of Ohio, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and many other prominent Pythians will be present and an interesting program will be carried out during the day and in the evening. Arrangements are being made to insure the success of the affair. A large number of the Uniform Rank will be present, and it is expected that all of the twenty-four lodges in the district will be well represented.

An invitation has been received by Limestone Lodge of Maysville to attend this convention.

Judge Cantrill Tuesday postponed the Mescham case to restrain the holding of a State Democratic primary until the first day of the January term of court.

BARGES SWEEP AWAY.

Flood in the Ohio Causes Loss at Cincinnati and Other Points.

LIVES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST.

Heavy Rains Send Tributary Streams Over Banks—Million Dollars' Worth of Timber Afloat—Other Damage by Rise of Waters.

Cincinnati, Dec. 16.—The rise in the Ohio river here in the last 24 hours was 12 feet. The swift current swept 80 coal barges from their moorings and most of them sunk. All the harbor boats went in pursuit, but only about 30 barges were recovered. Several men were on the floating barges, and one is reported missing. The barges belonged to T. J. Hall, the Budd company and the People's Coal company at Pittsburg. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

May Reach Flood Stage.

Portsmouth, O., Dec. 16.—There is great danger that the Ohio river at this point will reach a flood stage. The river is rising at the rate of four inches an hour. The incessant rains of the past 60 hours are the cause. Roads leading to the city are submerged.

Rising Rapidly.

Gallipolis, O., Dec. 16.—The Ohio river stage has reached 35 feet and the heavy rains of the past 24 hours are causing a rapid rise. The Kanawha river is also rising rapidly and Gallipolis river men are predicting a flood in the lower lands.

Floods Feared.

Huntington, W. Va., Dec. 16.—Floods are feared in south West Virginia. All the tributaries of the Ohio are bank full and heavy rain continues. A million dollars' worth of timber is afloat on the Guyandotte and Big Sandy rivers.

NORD'S OPPONENT

Seeks Refuge in the American Legation at Port-au-Prince.

Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Dec. 16.—General Saint-Foix Colin, minister of the interior and opponent of General Nord in the contest for the presidency, has sought refuge in the United States legation. There has been much firing in the city and a state of great excitement prevails.

To Identify a Trotter.

New York, Dec. 16.—A. M. Kirby, a lawyer of Windsor, Canada, and J. Cunningham, a trainer employed by him, have sailed on the steamship Deutschland on their way to Russia, where they will be expected to identify a trotting horse, which the authorities suspect has been raced as "Russian Boy," but it is charged that he is really an animal formerly owned by Mr. Kirby and sold at one of the Madison Garden sales in 1899 to a party of foreigners, who said they intended racing him in Austria. The Russian government has sent for Mr. Kirby and his trainer, paying all their expenses to Russia and back for the purpose of completing or disproving the identification of "Russian Boy" as William C. K.

Singular Accident on a Car.

New York, Dec. 16.—Miss Anna Stapleton is suffering from the effects of a peculiar accident on a Ninth avenue surface car. The car was crossing Forty-seventh street, when in some way the full force of the electric current found its way into one of the electrical heaters placed under the seats of the car. There was a sudden outburst of blue flame and a slight report. Miss Stapleton, who was over the heater, received a shock which made her hysterical and caused partial paralysis. When she arrived at Bellevue hospital, she was unable to speak and had lost the use of her right leg. Her condition was pronounced very serious.

Testing Food Adulterants.

Washington, Dec. 16.—About a dozen young men are boarding on a diet furnished by the agricultural department and designed to test the effect of food adulterants. It was the first day of the actual inclusion of borax and other preservatives in the meats, which are to be furnished the young men for a long period, under the direction of Chemist Wiley of the department. The chemist believes that the results will show the harmfulness of preservatives whose presence in exports of the United States has led to exclusion of such food products in a number of instances.

Sofia, Bulgaria, Dec. 16.—Advices from the frontier say that 24 Macedonian workmen who were returning to their own country have been killed by Turkish guards near Dubnitsa.